

# PEACE NEWS

No. 497 December 21, 1945 2d.

A LABOUR EX-CANDIDATE RECALLS 1939 IN ADDRESSING AN OPEN

## Letter to Ernest Bevin

Dear Comrade,

I AM devoutly glad to know that you are Foreign Secretary. For I recall the momentous Party Conference at Southport, Whitsun, 1939, halfway between "Munich" and "War." It was the session dealing with foreign policy. I, as a Labour Candidate, sat in the front row of the gallery. You were immediately below me, on the floor. Noel-Baker had "opened" for the Executive, emphasising that the Party adhered strongly to "Collective Security." He was followed by several comrades who demanded that we should "stand up to Hitler."

Towards the end of the debate you went to the rostrum. Your first few sentences were received in a surprised Silence. Here was a new Bevin, giving a voice to the hopes of the millions of silenced men and women across Europe. The first cheer came when you said "Whilst we must see Collective Security as the principal weapon to resist aggression, we must hitch our peace programme to an economic star."

### Our contribution

After denouncing the Ottawa Agreement which you said "was one of the causes which led Japan into the attack upon China," you asked "what contribution can be made from the vast wealth, resources and opportunities of the British Commonwealth in land, resources and raw materials, towards a general solution of the economic problems of the world?" And Conference cheered again.

Continuing courageously and prophetically, you invited Scandinavia, Holland Belgium, Russia, France and USA into a "Peace Bloc." Then you turned to Germany. "Many Germans have said to me, 'All you have offered us up till now are military pacts.' You waited a moment, then took the Conference by storm. "Cannot we say—and mean it—to the people of these countries (Germany, Italy and Japan) 'Put away your weapons of warfare, discard them as a means of bettering your conditions of life, and you can come in on the ground floor with the rest of us!'"

You must remember that great Conference cheering and shouting, as it does only once or twice in a lifetime. It must have been one of the biggest moments of your life. You sat down just beneath me. Whilst the excited delegates continued to cheer, Noel-Baker had a word with the

### LOOKING FORWARD HOPEFULLY

A CORRESPONDENT writes to ask why we do not begin to use the Peace News fund now to improve and enlarge the paper? A most reasonable and pertinent question.

As regards enlargement, it is perhaps not generally understood that Peace News is classed as a newspaper, and gets no benefit from the increase of the paper-ration recently granted to periodicals. We have to wait with the big dailies till there is a general increase in the ration of newsprint.

As regards improvement of format, there are technical difficulties which stand in the way until we have a larger supply of paper. But we look forward, hopefully, to that in the fairly near future. Then we promise both to enlarge and improve ourselves.

Meanwhile, our best thanks are due to the contributors who have raised the contributions to a more worthy level. We need all the help you can give, if they are to be kept at it.

Contributions since Dec. 7: £23 11s. 2d. Total to date: £6,145 18s. 9d.

THE EDITOR.

Please make cheques, etc., payable to Peace News, Ltd., and address them to the Accountant, Peace News, 3 Blackstock Road, N.4.

## 'LITTLE THREE' MUST AGREE ON GERMANY

THE world has not made any headway in the past week. The best news of last week is the best news of this: that Molotov, Bevin and Byrnes are actually conferring in Moscow. We can devoutly hope they will agree on something positive—above all with regard to Germany. Since there seems more prospect of genuine agreement on that matter than the atom-bomb, and since it is really by far the more urgent, it is to be hoped it will come early in the agenda.

Something concrete accomplished about Germany might take away the nasty taste left by the abortive London conference and make subsequent co-operation easier. The very real gulf between the mentality of the

### Observer's Commentary

Russian high-ups and the British and American may be bridged.

I suspect Mr. Randolph Churchill is not far from a truth when he writes of Russian foreign policy:

"Serious-minded though the Kremlin is in its objectives, in its tactics it is inclined to display an unpardonable levity. The Kremlin too often behaves like a man who in a poker game has bluffed on a busted flush and who, when his bluff is called, roars with laughter and proceeds with merriment, unabashed confidence, and possibly success to the next hand." (Daily Telegraph, Dec. 7.)

That kind of thing is not possible in a Western democracy. When democratic leaders try bluffing in foreign policy, they have to stick to it. Witness de Gaulle. Therefore they tend to avoid bluffing. Their besetting weakness is to have no definite policy at all.

### Need for British initiative

NOTHING has yet been decided as to the future of Germany: and intelligent British opinion is now agreed that Britain must take the initiative in putting forward a plan for the Ruhr. It is not easy to be patient with the French argument that because important German territories have been taken from her in the East, therefore they must be taken from her in the West. The connecting link in the argument is that the truncation of Eastern Germany is bound to create an irredentist movement in Germany, against which France must protect herself by detaching the Ruhr and the Rhineland.

There would be more sense in the proposal if the French proposed to expel the 16 million German inhabitants from the Ruhr and the Rhineland. But they have no surplus population to replace them. The proposition is, therefore, that the French

### SAVE EUROPE NOW

Our extra 7000 tons of fat 'negligible' - but not in Europe

IN the House of Lords' debate initiated by the Archbishop of Canterbury on conditions in Central Europe, Lord Nathan complacently remarked on behalf of the Government that there was no urgent need for clothing and that the amount by which our Christmas ration is to be increased is "completely negligible" in relation to European need.

Having just returned from some weeks visiting relief workers in Central Europe, I cannot believe the statement about clothing and the assertion about rations seems to me shocking. Ten days ago I was in Vienna, where the municipality manages to provide a supplementary daily meal for all of its 106,000 schoolchildren. By this means fat is distributed at the rate of 1 lb. per 400 children, and the unsatisfactory daily ration of 1,550 calories is raised to the rather less unsatisfactory 1,850 calories. For the two preceding weeks this fat was the only fat received by the children in any form. I RECKON THAT OUR EXTRA CHRISTMAS RATION WILL ABSORB SOME 7,000 TONS OF FAT. A HUNDRED TONS OF THIS WOULD GUARANTEE A QUARTER OF AN OUNCE OF FAT A DAY TO EVERY SCHOOLCHILD IN VIENNA FOR THE NEXT SIX MONTHS.

Lord Nathan is entitled to claim administrative difficulties about food relief, even if greater effort would overcome them. What is appalling is the ghastly lack of imagination behind the assertion that 7,000 tons of fat, let alone the sugar, is "completely negligible."

It would suffice to provide a quarter of an ounce daily for six months to over 5,000,000 of Europe's schoolchildren.

ROGER WILSON.

—The Times, Dec. 12.

(and the British) should govern 16 million Germans in perpetuity (in which I am sorry to see the "Observer," Dec. 15, concurring).

For the sake of this stupidity, France is still holding up the creation of a central administration for Germany.

### Joint control for the Ruhr

THE only concession Britain can reasonably make to France on (CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE)

## Old M.E.W. firm - NEW faith

Our readers will remember the Earl of Selborne and Mr. Dingle Foot, as Minister of Economic Warfare and his Parliamentary Secretary, in the days of the blockade of Europe—and of the Food Relief Campaign.

It is all the more noteworthy, therefore, to find both of them—now out of office—speaking vigorously on the subject of European distress while we are offered Christmas extras.

THE EARL OF SELBORNE: I was brought closely into touch with analogous problems when I was Minister for Economic Warfare in the last Government. We had a number of debates in this House on the effect produced on the occupied countries of Europe by the blockade, but the condition of affairs in the occupied countries of Europe then, so far as I can judge from such information as reaches me now, was nothing like as bad as the position which now threatens in Central Europe.

We have, by virtue of conquest, incurred a certain obligation, the obligation of seeing that the people we now govern are sufficiently fed to keep them alive and in tolerable health.

I should like to see permission given to people in this country who are

willing to forego part of their own rations, to send individual parcels to some clearing station in this country which could send them en bloc to where they are most needed in Europe. . . . It is not the amount of food that could be sent in this way to Germany which is important; it is, I think, the moral gesture of many thousands of people—and I think there would be many thousands—denying themselves and going short in order to give what help they could to people worse off than themselves in Central Europe. That would be very valuable from all points of view. I hope, therefore, that the experts, who can always confound us with technical objections, will bear these somewhat imponderable considerations in mind before they condemn this scheme as Utopian.—House of Lords, Dec. 5, 1945.

MR. DINGLE FOOT, speaking at the Liberal Council, called it "slightly indecent" to be having additional rations here when there was a rapid deterioration in nearly every country in Europe. "Such an attitude might not have surprised us coming from a Tory Minister of Food but we expected something better from a Labour Minister."—Manchester Guardian, Dec. 13.

### Third alternative

I sometimes believe that I would sooner Germany remain a graveyard, than that she should be restored to become again a battlefield. But those are not the sole alternatives. Given a United States of Western Europe (including the British Commonwealth) France would get her "Security" and Germany her Freedom. Can you abolish all tariffs and nationalism from Norway to Turkey? The walls are down today. We look to you to see that they are never rebuilt.

But it must be a "peace bloc"—not an "answer" to the Russian menace. The USSR, the USA, the US Europe and a Pacific Bloc could be four self-contained units, each big enough to be safe from the desire to aggress.

To that 1939 Conference you appealed: "We must make a contribution to laying down the pathway which has to be trod by the millions yet unborn. The course the world will take for many generations to come will, to a great extent, be determined by the present generation." Not by the present generation, Comrade, but by YOU. You could never have imagined that within a few years you would have it in your own power to make your words come true. Break from old traditions yet again. And a world will cheer you on.

Yours fraternally,

FRANK HANCOCK



# PEACE NEWS

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All letters on other than editorial matters should be addressed to the Manager

## THE PETTY TYRANT

IN his letter to The Times, reproduced on our front page, Mr. Roger Wilson of the Friends Relief Service expressed his indignation at the statement of the government spokesman in the recent Lords' debate, that the increase of our Christmas rations is "completely negligible" in relation to the need.

"What is appalling is the ghastly lack of imagination behind the assertion that 7,000 tons of fat, let alone the sugar, is 'completely negligible.' It would suffice to provide a quarter of an ounce daily for six months for over five millions of Europe's schoolchildren."

We are told of hospitals in Vienna where the medical staffs are in a state of collapse and the patients can make no recovery, both through lack of food. If that extra Christmas ration had been given simply to hospitals in Austria and Germany, it would have saved thousands of lives and the gift for such a purpose would have aroused no criticism in this country.

To make the magnitude of the calamity in Central Europe the excuse for not making every effort to mitigate it is to surrender to the forces of evil. There is very much that the people of this country could do, without inflicting undue hardship on themselves, if only they were allowed to do it. But one has the despairing feeling that the Government is, on principle, averse to voluntary initiative, because it is enamoured of state-action.

That may be unjust as a generalization. But it is difficult to suppress a surge of bitter indignation against the attitude of the Minister of Food. It is a manifestation of the totalitarian spirit at its worst. Apparently, he is determined to prevent a large number of British people from giving practical expression to their spontaneous desire to sacrifice some of their food to help the bitterest need of the Germans. The more he is pressed, the more recalcitrant he becomes; and he proffers futile arguments to the effect that it is his duty to save misguided people from themselves.

This is the mentality of a petty and small-minded tyrant, intoxicated by power. To many people—and those not among the least politically conscious or politically active—the attitude of the Minister of Food will colour their judgment of socialism for the rest of their lives. They will reflect that the former Minister of Food, Lord Woolton, never behaved with the arrogance and boorishness—for that is what it comes to—of Sir Ben Smith. A person with a civilized imagination in his place, if he felt in fact compelled to refuse the request of the signatories of "Save Europe Now" for administrative reasons, would at least have refused with real regret and given such expression to it as would have convinced his hearers of the genuineness of his concern.

But not Sir Ben. He apparently finds satisfaction in being in a position to stifle the spontaneous expression of sympathy towards the innocent victims of the catastrophe of war. To the ghastly lack of imagination which appals Mr. Roger Wilson in Lord Nathan, Sir Ben Smith adds a perverted callousness all his own, born (we suspect) of a resentment that a body of people should dare to suggest that he is not all-wise as he is, in the present moment, all-powerful in this province.

It is part of the same petty tyranny that he obstinately refuses to publish figures of reserve food-stocks "for security reasons," in spite of the fact that they were published by Mr. Churchill last March while the war was still being fought. This is the same gentleman who publicly admits that "there is a hell of a black market in turkeys, but he can do nothing about it." But he can do something—far more than the servant of a self-respecting democracy should be permitted to do—to prevent those who are more imaginative than himself from making a small sacrifice for the relief of human misery. If that is socialism in act, the British people will not put up with it for long.

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In view of the many claims on our very limited space, correspondents are urged to keep their letters under 250 words.

# These are our own problems!

by MARGARET WHITE

EVERY social worker, whatever his particular sphere of work, must at some time have experienced a sense of utter frustration imposed by the limitations of his expert knowledge. Moral welfare workers, education officers, housing managers, club leaders—all have known their "hopeless" families; have worked unceasingly to help and encourage them within the sphere of their specialised work, and have so often failed just because the problem is too complex, and they cannot see the job right through.

"Problem Families" tells the story of an experiment being carried out on a small scale by our Pacifist Service Units in which they seek by the use of every technical resource, coupled with the steady pressure of a compelling friendship, to restore the misfits of society to a normal life of well-being and independence.

### Grim reading

The book is divided into two parts, with a foreword and a postscript and a short appendix on the organization of the work. The first part gives straightforward, undramatic stories of families and individuals sent to the Units for assistance because existing services had found them to be beyond their help. It is grim reading. Bad health and housing, low mentality, unemployment, dirty habits, school truancy, juvenile delinquency—form the vicious circle from which there seems no escape. Such distress brings about the "collapse of morale and complete abandonment of any effort to recover." That, says the

\*An experiment in Social Rehabilitation. Edited by Tom Stephens. (Pacifist Service Units, 2s. 6d.)

report, is the key problem.

The second half of the book deals with the methods employed to rehabilitate these unhappy people. It is inspiring reading for those who can discern that which is so humbly hidden in the writing—the patience, the disinterestedness, the humour, the endurance of the Units' members. Only once is the curtain drawn aside and a vivid glimpse is given of the rowdy fairground boy who shared the Unit's hostel for five months, and its effect on him—and them!

### Within the family

Great stress is laid on the care of children within the family group, involving the fieldworkers in a multitude of tasks, from the loan of an alarm clock to awaken the tardy mother in time to get the youngsters off to school, to cleaning the children's heads themselves with comb and towel and pediculus oil: but never lessening the ultimate responsibility of the parents to such tasks.

"His (the field-worker's) demonstration of the importance he attaches to the fulfilment of a duty, and of his own willingness to fulfil it, is the most striking manner in which he can bring their responsibility home to the parents," the writer declares.

Every available service and organization is used in the process of bringing the family back to self-respecting citizenship. The closest co-operation is maintained between these bodies and the fieldworker, and advice from the experts at Child Guidance and Psychiatric Clinics is sought and used. But instead of help coming spasmodically, often after tedious delays, the field-worker endeavours to get many difficulties solved simultaneously. A sense of the dramatic is achieved, inertia is thrown off, and regeneration frequently begins from that moment. We all know the immense value of personal interest and

## AND WHAT NOW? ONE UNIT PLANS FOR PEACE-TIME

DURING the war the Leytonstone part-time Pacifist Service Unit has been engaged mainly in the organization of shelter canteens and the staffing and supporting of an unofficial rest-centre for the aged and infirm. Recently a Planning Committee has been investigating possibilities of peace-time work. Their programme for service include:

Home-visiting of a number of aged folk; the possibility of establishing an Old Age Pensioners' Hostel and of forming Old People's Clubs;

co-operation with the Blind Welfare Officer and the Roosters Blind Club;

provision workers to assist in running club activities.

Other suggestions made for future work are the development, as unit members gain experience, of case work of the kind done by the full-time Units, and the collaboration with other local bodies with a view to the establishment of a local Community Centre.

The Committee stresses the importance of service as part of the pacifist movement, and also that

"Except in extreme emergencies, where neglect to do so would cause avoidable suffering, PSU should not take on any work which local authorities are under a statutory obligation to perform. But we consider that members should take a keen interest in local affairs, and the Unit should be prepared to take up with the local authorities any matter in which there appears to be a neglect of duty."

friendship: but how many trained people have the time or opportunity of visiting one family every day of the week for months at a stretch, any time of the day or night?

### Unique contribution

Every pacifist must read this book. It is a unique contribution towards the solution of a problem which has, for years, baffled social workers. More than that—it is commended to every man and woman who cares about those who are socially relegated to the ranks of the "submerged tenth," and who believes in the ultimate worth of every individual.

## LETTERS

### International bias

THE true internationalist is in a pretty predicament nowadays: for his fellows, with their habit of identifying State and people, so easily misunderstand him. By attacking nationalism in another country, he seems to put himself on the side of international discord. But have we forgotten what we have so often said in the pacifist movement?—the common man does not want war or benefit by it: war is made by governments, not by peoples.

It is not easy to affirm one's interest in one's fellow, and affection for him, while attacking his government, especially if that government is "democratic." But the distinction must be made. The internationalist must oppose nationalism wherever it is to be found, and it is found in different forms, in Russia, America, Britain, and in all parts of the world organized as national states.

So, as an internationalist, Observer must oppose Russian nationalism—which has certainly not been decreased by the war—whatever he thinks of other aspects of Russian life. He must also (as he does) oppose British nationalism, of which there seems to be more than some Labour sympathizers hoped. In fact, the tendency to "nationalization" carries new dangers for internationalism. It is probably the only ready cure for Capitalist mass-unemployment, but Capitalism was not organized entirely within national boundaries.

National states were to a large extent secondary. Groups of financiers drawn from several countries would unite to sway the behaviour of governments not necessarily their own. Now, though, the industrial unit is the state, and there is a great danger of increased nationalism, in spite of the internationalist traditions of the Labour movement. Nationalism does promise quick results, as a short-sighted, short-term policy; but internationalism, paradoxically, means criticism of nearly every other nationalist country, and friendship with elements which, in a highly nationalistic state, are considered subversive and treasonable.

The problem of the age is to find an internationalist policy which is neither appeasement nor war-producing; and then to sway the popular movements, with their governments, in this direction. Otherwise there will be further splits in the Labour movements, which will further reduce the possibility of effective opposition to war.

ARTHUR FRENCH.

The Cottage, Regent Street,  
Stonehouse, Glos.

### Church or Peace?

I happened to see Peace News on a station bookstall and as I hold pacifist views myself I bought a copy. I must say I am very much surprised and disappointed at the amount of stress Peace News lays upon religion and the Church. More blood has been shed in the name of religion than in any other cause, while the Church is one of the strongest instruments of oppression in the poorer countries of the world.

The Communists are no friends of mine, or of any true pacifist, but I do agree with their policy towards religion. When they say it is "the dope of the working classes," they are right. On the Continent the standard of living of the working man varies inversely to the number of regular church-goers.

During the past two wars God and religion have been used by the Governments of all countries to urge their countrymen to greater war-efforts and the sooner our movement realizes this and acts upon its knowledge the better.

ERNEST W. STURGESS.

4 Nicander Road,  
Sefton Park, Liverpool, 15.

### Pacifist enquiry

The definitive enquiry which Frank Moreton proposes (PN, Nov. 30) into the origins of pacifism should have value in helping towards clear thinking on the subject, a very desirable process both inside and outside our movement. Do we realize how very new "pacifism" is?

The word does not appear in the 1911 edition of the Concise Oxford Dictionary. It is included in the list of new words in the supplement of 1914, in which the form "pacifism" is preferred, the shorter variant being described as "barbarous but usual." Our prophets of war will be quick to note that the descent into barbarism has been stabilized since 1914. The considered definition (Pocket Oxford Dictionary, 1924) "advocacy of the abolition of war" seems to require revision in the light of 1945.

Pacifism is revealed as the child of our time, a response to the complexity of twentieth-century society in which every individual life and every aspect of national organization has been drawn in as a constituent part of the military structure, in which, in short, war has become "total." In claiming the title "pacifist" one is reacting to a historical situation and is committed to thinking in terms of national and world politics.

On the other hand, refusal to use weapons or to serve in armies has been a characteristic of certain Christian sects through many centuries. It is only in the past forty years that their thought has penetrated into politics. The working of the Peace Pledge does not quite succeed in making clear this new political application of an ancient Christian testimony.

H. R. ECROYD.

Hampton Manor, Hereford.

### Regret—remember

As Christmas is coming and many of the peace-loving friends are looking for some Christian activities may I kindly suggest some more poster-parades, posters, hand-bills and Christmas cards with inscriptions like this:

The Dead

let us regret.

The Dying

let us not forget:

"Save Europe Now."

FRITZ GROSS.

3 Regent Square, London, W.C.1.

### Might now right

The atom-bomb controversy most certainly bears witness that "Might is Right." Was it not the British Government who in 1939 declared its intention to stamp out this doctrine, and if so, why the apparent change of principle, seeing that the general opinion is, that, on the secret of "atomic force" depends the world's future peace?

FREDERICK B. MAY.

34 Russell Road,  
Walton-on-Thames, Surrey.

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# TRANSITION

"THE transition from war to peace is more obscure and more dangerous than the transition from peace to war." Some of us were recently reminded by the Editor of Peace News of this sentence by a distinguished French writer. Of its general truth there can be little doubt. It seems to me, as I write this House Column at Christmas time concerning the staff of Dick Sheppard House, to be strangely applicable to our work here.

It must indeed have been a strenuous transition period for the staff as in 1939 they passed into the war years. But, though the fact may not fully be realized, it is certainly a difficult period for us here as we pass from war to peace. There are changes in personnel that can be unsettling. There is a post-war tiredness (not

"I RENOUNCE WAR AND I WILL NEVER SUPPORT OR SANCTION ANOTHER."

This pledge, signed by each member, is the basis of the Peace Pledge Union. Further information from: General Secretary, PPU, Dick Sheppard House, Endsleigh St., London, W.C.1.

peculiar of course to us here). For some of us there is an alteration in our work. There is inevitably some bad effect upon our work when Union policy is not clearly agreed. There is, too, the concern that comes from knowing that the Union's finances are not good.

In this period of transition we would say three things to the membership. First—Depend upon us. We stand by you. We know that it is a privilege to be here. We are grateful for this opportunity of service.

Then—Do stand by us. Is it not tragic that at such a time, to effect economies, two of us should have to give up our work? Please make it possible for us all to carry on.

Thirdly—We suggest that you might remember that we are doing with all our time and energy what you surely would wish but are unable to do yourselves. We come from Birmingham and Bristol, Newcastle and Somerset as well as from London. We hope that we represent you all.

CHRISTMAS greetings from Dick Sheppard House staff to every Union member and Peace News reader. At this time of danger and obscurity we take courage from your sympathy and support. We shall be glad to see you whenever you can call. We are not really closing—only for Christmas!

PATRICK FIGGIS.

## PACIFIST COUNCILLORS AT DENBIGH

Two prominent Welsh pacifists, members of "Heddychwyr Cymru" (the Welsh PPU) and of the Welsh Nationalist Party, Morris T. Williams, managing director of Gee's Press, and Gwilym R. Jones, editor of "Y Faner," the Welsh national weekly, have been elected members of the Denbigh Borough Council, in an election in which the Labour candidates failed to gain a seat.

The two new councillors refused to attend a Victory Thanksgiving Service and also to vote for a contribution by the council towards Defence Bonds.

## DOCKED 2d. TO SEE THE BELSEN FILM—TOWNSMEN ON A FOREIGN LAND—WAITING—THESE ARE

### 'Our prisoners'

THEY came on a rainy day in early summer to work on this farm. The two German prisoners seemed out of place in the Devon countryside, their voluminous capes and forage caps made them seem rather un-English. We felt rather uncomfortable when speaking to them for the first time. They came for several weeks, and like many local farmers we called them "our prisoners."

They were townsmen, very neat despite their worn uniforms. Every mid-day when we "knocked off" for lunch, one of them produced a mirror from his pocket, propped it up carefully on the hedge and proceeded to comb his hair with a pink comb. But they were not "pansies"; they were strong and did a good day's work, even if their hoeing was slow judged by rural standards. They stopped only to light their cigarettes. They usually indulged in the third part of a woodbine, smoked right to the end in long cigarette holders. This is all they could afford.

### Still cheerful

In spite of many hardships, no news from home, inadequate or badly-cooked food, the monotony of prison-camp life and the boring jobs we gave them, they contrived to be cheerful. They rarely groused. But we found them very bitter one Monday morning. The whole camp had been ordered to see the concentration camp film on the previous day, Sunday being a day of rest for the body and soul.

They pointed out that all the men were proved anti-Nazi, that several of them had known near relatives "liquidated" by the Nazis as far back as 1935, that others had been interned in concentration camps themselves

### Gentlemen, its closing time

At Magny's dinner. They said that Berthelot had predicted that in a hundred years of physical and chemical science man would learn to know the atom, and that with this knowledge he would be able, at his will, to dim, extinguish or re-light the sun like a Carcel lamp. Claude Bernard, for his part, is said to have announced that with a hundred years more of physiological knowledge we would be able to make the organic law ourselves—to manufacture human life, in competition with the Creator.

For our part we did not raise any objection to all this talk, but we do believe that at that particular stage of scientific development, the good Lord, with a flowing white beard, will arrive on Earth with his chain of keys and will say to humanity, just like they do at the Art Gallery at five o'clock, "Gentlemen, it's closing time."

The de Goncourt Brothers, Journal, April 7, 1869.

and they were all forcibly subjected to this propaganda to impress on them the wickedness of Hitler's rule. The last straw was when they were charged twopence for admission to the entertainment. Twopence out of a wage of five shillings per week. They didn't blame the British for this outrage but pointed out that the military mind is unimaginative in every country in the world.

How different these two were! Hans, forty years of age, an industrial worker who had been out of the army several times because production was flagging. He spoke little, and what he said we tended to accept as gospel truth. He had been a keen footballer, but resigned when Nazi influences grew strong in his sports club. Fritz, about twenty, a well-built boy, who was a student when called to be an airman. He was an intellectual, very fond of airing his theories at great length, punctuated by grunts from his colleague, who sometimes did not listen at all. The practical man and the idealist, different in temperament, in appearance, in their whole approach to life, but united in their zeal for Socialism, their hatred of Nazism, and their utter disgust with militarism.

### Finished with war

One day we heard them discuss war. Again it was rather one-sided. Fritz did the talking, and closed his lecture by stating very tentatively that all future problems could be solved without war. This was too much for the practical man and he replied: "I know nothing about all that; all I know is that they can settle all their quarrels in the future without my help; I've finished with war."

When the General Election result came through they were as pleased as we were. At noon we stood in the field and cheered. It was good news for us. What about them? The war is not over for them while they are still prisoners.

Will our new government hasten their return? The last question is the most important. Will young men of this type be allowed to build a new Germany when they reach home?

T. P.

## ABOUT OURSELVES

PEACE NEWS office will be open tomorrow, Sat., Dec. 22, but will then be closed until next Thurs., Dec. 27.

Our classified advertisement rates are being increased to 3d. per word, starting with the New Year. The 2s. 6d. minimum is unchanged.

The Peace News pamphlet with a Christmas flavour, "Past and Present: A Miscellany for 1945," is published today, price 1d., postage extra.

We have not a single file copy left of Peace News No. 490, dated Nov. 2. Please, readers, send us any you can spare!

## W.R.I. Conferences

The WRI is arranging simultaneous conferences to take place in January and February next year wherever their sections can make the necessary arrangements. News is coming in of projected conferences—in U.S.A., South America, Canada and some European countries.

In Great Britain it is hoped to hold conferences at London, Newcastle, Leeds, Birmingham, Bristol, Glasgow and in Wales. These will be delegate conferences, at which representatives will report the findings of their groups after studying the detailed Agenda.

If the PPU is to make an effective contribution to the whole International, it is important that groups should devote sufficient time to discussing the Agenda between now and February. Copies will be supplied free.

## YOUTH CLUB MEETINGS IN GLOUCESTER

Alan Mister, PPU West of England organizer, recently devoted a week to a series of meetings with local youth groups in Gloucester, arranged in conjunction with the City Youth Organizer on "Reconstruction in Europe."

The young folk proved very interested. RAF air-crew personnel were present at some of the meetings, and helped to provide stimulating discussions. A fair quantity of "Save Europe Now" publications were sold. The hope that international work camps would be possible next year—perhaps to help clear bomb damage—commended itself to the audience, as did the immediate task of collecting clothing for Europe, and the long-term task of manifesting a mutual faith among the ordinary people of the world.

## Advisory Bureaux changes

BURNLEY (Lancs): Individual Adviser now: John E. Booth, 119 Basnett Street, Burnley.

CULLOMPTON (Devon): Individual Adviser now: Walter F. Hillman, "Helvellyn," Wilton, Cullompton.

WHITECHAPEL (covering E.1 and E.C.3): Individual Adviser now: Douglas Millard, 389 The Highway, London, E.1.

SHEFFIELD (Yorks): David R. Brayshaw now: 12 Castlewood Crescent, Sheffield, 10 (same phone).

## "ONE PACIFIST TAKES STOCK"

By an unfortunate misprint John Chapman was made to write in a recent issue that a full life should lead to "harmony rather than discussion," a phrase which should have read: "rather than dissension."

## WORDS OF PEACE - No. 154

Moreover this was not enough for them that they erred in the knowledge of God; but whereas they lived in the great war of ignorance, those so great plagues they called peace. . . So that there reigned in all men blood, manslaughter, theft and dissimulation, corruption, unfaithfulness, tumults, perjury, disquieting of good men, forgetfulness of good turns, disorder in marriages, adultery and shameless uncleanness; for either they are mad when they are merry, or prophesy lies, or live unjustly or else forswear themselves. But they counted our life a pastime, and our time here a market for gain; for, say they, we must be getting every day, though it be by evil means.

—Solomon.

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY LATEST TIME for copy: Monday before publication.

TERMS: Cash with order. 2d. per word, minimum 2s. 6d. (Box No. 6d. extra). Please don't send stamps in payment, except for odd pence. Maximum length: 50 words. Address for Box No. replies: Peace News, 3 Blackstock Rd., N.4.

When corresponding with PN about an advertisement, quote its first words, classification, and date. We reserve the right to hold over advertisements and to limit the frequency of continuing advertisements.

### ACCOMMODATION

UNFURN. ACMDTN. (3 or 4 rms) reqd. N.W. London, Edgware dist. 2 adults, refs. 20, St. Catherine's Rd., Broxbourne, Herts.

TEMPORARY BOARD Lodging with some supervision wanted immediately for mild mental case (woman); can do some mending; preferably Surrey or Sussex. Apply: Hevenmann, 179 Goldhurst Terrace, N.W.6.

TWO UNFURN./prt. furn. rms. Use kitchen, bath. Suit woman. Full parties. reqd. Quiet hse. Broxbourne, Box 223.

YOUNG PACIFIST couple and baby desperately requ. furn/unfurn. acmdtn. anywhere London area. David Watson, 11 Vaughan Avenue, Doncaster.

DERRYSHIRE HILLS. Food Reform Vegetarian Guest House for happy holidays or restful recuperation; all modern comforts. A. and K. S. Ludlow. The Briars, Crich, Mallock (Station). Ambergate: Tel. Ambergate 44).

### EDUCATIONAL

SPEAKING AND WRITING lessons (correspondence, or visit) 5s.; classes 1s. 6d. Diffident, nervous, and hesitant people specially helped, also stammerers. Dorothy Matthews, B.A., 32 Primrose Hill Rd., London, N.W.3. PRIMROSE 5626.

### FOR SALE & WANTED

SWIFT TYPEWRITER, brief carriage, fourbank, two colour, stencil, tabulator, good condn, £20. Roemount, Wells Green, Crewes.

WANTED SECONDHAND oboe for musical boy (alien) in poor circumstances. Apply: Buxton, Whingate, Peaslake, Surrey.

PEACE NEWS Economy Labels (for re-using envelopes, etc.) available again. Good propaganda. 1s. 6d. 100 (postage 2d. extra). 1,000 lots less 25 per cent. discount. Order from Peace News, Ltd., 3 Blackstock Rd., London, N.4, or your P.N. distributor.

"BATLEY" STANDARDIZED All-concrete Reinforced Sectional Sheds, one width only, 10 1/2 ft., suitable for farmers, gardeners, workshops, etc. One 10 1/2 x 10 1/2 x 7 ft. high costs £43 14s. 0d., larger sizes in proportion. Inspection invited. Batley & Co., Stockport.

"BURLS" Cycle Makers, 797 Old Kent Rd., S.E.15. We have a variety of Ladies' and Gents' cycles from £9 17s. 4d. "Speciality" speedy frame repairs. "Phone: New Cross 4129.

SUPER GRADE Strawberry plants last year's runners per 100, 26s.; 50, 14s.; 25, 7s. 6d.; 12, 4s.; carr. pd. Haines Bros., Margaret Manor, Dodington, Kent.

STAMP COLLECTORS. "The Asgard" detector will find the most obscure Watermarks. Sent on approval, money refunded in full if dissatisfied. Send P.O. 3s. inclusive of packing, pst. free (Trade enq. invited). D.C.A., 9 High St., Barnstaple.

WAR RESISTERS' International wd. welcome gifts of foreign stamps for subsequent sale on behalf of W.R.I. funds. Any such gifts received with gratitude. Pl. send to the War Resisters' International, 11 Abbey Rd., Enfield.

### LITERATURE, &c.

THOSE WHO DARE think value Ronald Mallone's poetry: "Passionate affirmation of our fundamental values" (New Leader), "Vigorous and expressive" (Herbert Read), "Sensitiveness to anguish of world" (Friend). Peoples' Post praises latest volume "Whose Victory?" (2s. 6d., post 2d.) for nobility of thoughts, courage, exquisite contrast." 30 Darby Rd., Oldbury.

FREEMASONRY exposed by Rev. Penny Hunt, B.A., 100-page bk. containing numerous quotations from masonic literature: 2s. 8d. from Sec. Book Club, 21 Poplar Gve., New Malden.

QUAKERISM. Information and literature respecting the Faith and Practice of the Religious Society of Friends, free on application to the Friends' Home Service Committee, Friends' House, Euston Rd., London, N.W.1.

### PERSONAL

FREDERICK H.—U. BOWMAN (Bowman for Peace, 183) wishes friends Happy Yuletide and Peaceful New Year. Editor: "Liverpool Examiner," Liverpool, 1.

### NEW YEAR—NEW RATES

Beginning with our first issue in the New Year, all classified advertisements will be charged at 3d. per word. The minimum of 2s. 6d. will remain, as will the additional charge for Box Numbers. The present rate has not been raised throughout the war, but now that Peace News is again on the bookstalls 2d. per word is an absurdly low figure.

RUBY AND Ron Barnes announce arrival of Keith Stephen on Dec. 13 at "Drummuir," Northfield, Bridgewater.

£200 at 3 per cent. for extension of Nature-Cure work in Devon. A real investment. Box 222.

"WANTED! NEW MEN" writes Dr. Belden in Christmas issue of "Uncommon Sense," 4d. (post 1d.). Illustrated (Arthur Wragg, Angelo da Fonseca). "Open Letter to Scots" (John Kinloch). "Are There No Prisons?" asked Scrooge" (John Coleman). "True Glory" (Nina Bailey). Constructive Political Commentary. Poetry (Winifred Haythorne, Ronald Mallone). 30 Darby Rd., Oldbury.

YOU WILL FIND true friendship in the L. and H. C. Correspondence Club. Send s.a.e. for particulars to Sec. L. and H. C. C., 39 Reighton Rd., London, E.5.

FRIENDSHIPS CONFIDENTIALLY formed. For particulars, send s.a.e. to Friendship Bureau, 55 Lynwood Drive, Romford, Essex.

JOIN Victory Correspondence Club, 34 Honeywell Rd., S.W.11, for congenial pen-friends.

CONTACT CORRESPONDENCE CLUB. A satisfactory medium for those desiring congenial pen-friendships. Parties, stamp, Sec. PN. 19 Ty Fry Gdns., Rumney, Cardiff.

### SITUATIONS VACANT

We cannot confirm satisfactory conditions of employment in all posts advertised. Applications in doubt are recommended to consult the Central Board for C.O.s, 6 Endsleigh St., W.C.1., which will often be able to give useful advice.

METHODIST PEACE Fellowship, Record and Corres. Clerk commence at £18 monthly, Jan. 1. Apply: M.P.F., H.Q., Kingsway Hall, W.C.2.

### MISCELLANEOUS

READ THE BIBLE through in a year. The Bible the Foundation and Source of Civilization—The Magna Charta of Liberty: "The Most Valuable Thing That This World Affords . . . Wisdom . . . The Royal Law . . . The Oracles of God." Tables free (by post 1d.) from Mr. Viner Hall, The Institute, Weston-super-Mare.

JOHN SNOW psychologist. Child guidance, vocational guidance. Consultations by appt. 14 Lamb's Close, N.9. (Phone: Tottenham 2522).

INSTITUTE PSYCHOLOGY, Kensington. Lectures every Tuesday, 7 p.m. Philosophy, genuine social introductions. Consultations all problems. Western 8935.

NATURE CURE—Psychological & Drugless Treatment of Disease by Reginald Bailey, Psychiatrist, Nerve-Specialist and Bates Practitioner (eyesight corrected by natural methods); Daisy E. Bailey, Specialist in Women's ailments and Children's complaints; Reg. J. Bailey, Osteopath, Naturopath. Consultation by appt.—134 Hoppers Rd., Winchmore Hill, N.21. Palmers Green 7868.

ACCOUNTANT C.O. writes up traders bks.; attends to all Income Tax matters; company formation; audits and costing. Provincial clients visited without obligation. Box 96.



## Wanted: A revolution in U.S.A.

### 'OBSERVER' CONTINUED

this matter is to insist that whatever remains of the heavy industry of the Ruhr shall be permanently demilitarized; and to associate herself with France in the necessary control. On any showing, Germany will need, for many years to come, the entire output of her drastically reduced industry in order to reconstruct the most modest peaceful economy.

"The German economic machine is still running down (says The Times, Dec. 15) . . . The restoration of German production of consumer's goods—even of the ordinary everyday necessities of civilized life, has hardly begun."

Actually, there is a pathetic shortage of even the simplest tools—saws, hammers, reaping-hooks and the like, which the Germans need to save themselves from further collapse. And, as The Times points out, German agricultural production, so desperately needed, is bound to dwindle if the agriculturists can get nothing useful in exchange for their products.

In such a situation the establishment of a drastic control on the end-products of German industry would have the willing concurrence of the Germans themselves. Allow a German central government to be freely created, and it will require no pressure to consent to have its industry demilitarized for a century.

### What capacity remains?

NOT only have the USA announced their intention of transferring the administration of their zone (except at the very top) to Germans at the New Year, but Mr. Byrnes has instructed the USA army authorities that the American interpretation of the Potsdam Agreement is that Germany shall have complete control of her own economic life by 1950, and that any limitations imposed on it thereafter should

"be designed primarily to prevent German re-armament and not to restrict or reduce the German standard of living."

In theory, one might suppose that the Russians who have equally little desire to prolong their occupation of Germany might agree with USA, as Britain undoubtedly is ready to do. But everything depends on their being able to agree upon the amount of productive capacity to be left to Western Germany.

This, by the Potsdam agreement, is supposed to be finally determined by February 2. But, obviously, it cannot be determined at all if it remains uncertain whether what remains of the industry of Western Germany is to belong to Germany or not. Thus it is imperative that the French (or rather de Gaulle) should be persuaded to abandon their proposal to detach the Ruhr and the Rhineland economically or politically from Germany.

### New unconditional surrender

THE gloom caused in Parliament by the necessity of accepting the American loan agreement was unrelieved, except by one or two brilliant speeches in opposition to it. This is a very dangerous agreement for a Socialist government to allow itself to be identified with. An adequate impression of the attitude of the nation might have been conveyed to USA if the Government could have arranged with the Opposition that the agreement should be approved by a single vote only. The one decisive consideration has been that, at the present moment, Britain cannot afford an open break with USA.

The Economist (Dec. 19) computes that in order to meet the new financial burdens imposed upon us, our export trade in manufactures will now have to be increased to 100 per cent. of the pre-war figure. That is conceivable—and barely conceivable—only if we could use our import markets to bargain for export markets: that is, if a sensible system of real exchange of goods could be maintained. This is explicitly forbidden by the complex of agreements. Indeed, the whole purpose of the USA has been to prevent this. And the approval of the agreement by the Commons represents, in the economic field, the equivalent of the "unconditional surrender" demanded of Germany in the military field.

### Waiting for the next slump

PRECISELY how long it will be before we are compelled to default on the loan even the experts

cannot say. The economy of Britain is still in far too chaotic a condition to permit prophecy. But the necessity will come very soon.

It is an unpleasant condition to be in—hoping for a catastrophic slump in USA. Yet that seems to be the only thing that will bring Congress to its senses. We do not want an American slump for its own sake; but as the only visible means of inducing a revolution in the mentality of USA.

At present, USA is the most colossal and the most economically retrogressive power in the whole world. It is seeking to impose the principles of its economic barbarism at home on the whole world. It has brought down Germany (which was economically progressive); now it is going to bring down Britain (which was beginning to learn). It will bring itself down in the process. As The Economist ominously put it: "Beggars cannot be choosers. But they can, by long tradition, put a curse on the ambitions of the rich."

### Good for the Fort Knox gold

STILL, it remains a matter of wonder that a Socialist government should have accepted a set of rules for international trade which contain the following (ITO Proposals Section E):

"Members engaging in state trading in any form should treat all other members equally. They should undertake that foreign purchases and sales of their state-trading enterprises shall be influenced solely by commercial considerations such as price, quality, marketability, transportation and terms of purchase or sale."

Probably you get out of this one, at a pinch, by invoking Section G: whereby members are permitted to "adopt measures to protect human, animal or plant life or health." Our old friend "a healthy agriculture" ought to come somewhere under that.

It is difficult, too, in view of the general tenor of the Documents to attach any meaning whatsoever to the governing aims of the ITO.

(1) Each signatory will take action to maintain full employment, by measures appropriate to its institutions.

(2) No nation will use measures likely to create unemployment in other countries.

The whole paraphernalia is designed to promote unemployment in all countries. Only the gold in Fort Knox will be taken off the dole.

## UNNRA sends a new SOS.: News from Germany of

### OPERATION SAMARITAN

UNNRA'S SUPPLY LINE TO WAR VICTIMS IN EUROPE WILL BE BROKEN IN MID-FEBRUARY UNLESS NEW FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

Mr. Herbert Lehman, Director-General of UNNRA, added this warning to his announcement last weekend that total relief shipments for November (including relief to China) were 755,500 tons, valued at £61,200,000, an increase of nearly a quarter of a million tons over October, the previous record weight.

This week we forebear to publish news of privation and distress in Europe. Our readers will be in no doubt of the overwhelming need. Here, to be read in that perspective, are some items of current efforts at relief:

"OPERATION SAMARITAN" — British Red Cross workers in Germany, who already have 11 teams (each of 12 persons) at work in the Ruhr, Berlin and elsewhere, are transferring 12 more, who are winding up work with DPs, and are expecting yet another 12—making 35 in all—from Britain soon. All will be equipped with Army transport.

INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS — an offer of 150 tons of food, clothing, and medicine for Berlin's sick children was accepted by the Allied Kommandatura on Dec. 11.

SWEDISH AID — A "substantial" offer of help in Germany and Austria, which had been under discussion by the Allied Control Commission since October, has been accepted by the British element. Count Bernadotte returned to Sweden from British HQ at Bad Oeynhausen, and a Swedish Red Cross team immediately left for Vienna. Swedish aid to children in the British zone of Germany is expected to begin in mid-January—at first in Hamburg and the Ruhr. The Swedish Red Cross will be co-operating with the Save the Children societies, and with COBSRA.

FRIENDS RELIEF SERVICE — Donors of clothing are asked to make enquiries locally before sending packages to the London warehouse.

1,470,000 BLANKETS — out of British stocks totalling 2,760,000 are to be made available for European relief, said Sir Stafford Cripps in the Commons on Dec. 17.

### THE MAJOR AND THE CHILDREN

THE striking poster by Oskar Kokoschka, copies of which have been sent to PPU Groups, is on show at 1,000 London Underground sites.

The anonymous sponsor is Major E. Beddington-Behrens, MC, who told an Evening News reporter (Dec. 14):

"During the Dunkirk retreat the most heartbreaking sights I saw were the children on the roads. All over Europe this Christmas are little children who will be cold and hungry. It is not the British way to be indifferent to the sufferings of others."

(The poster is available from Housman's for the cost of postage only. It is especially suitable for display outside churches.)

### "Release" Bill held up

OWING to extreme pressure upon Parliamentary time, the National Service (Release of Conscientious Objectors) Bill will not be passed until after the Christmas Recess. By the time the Lords have considered it it may be mid-February before the Bill becomes law. The Committee Stage in the Commons is due this week.

Registration for non-combatant duties is not "conditional registration" under the Bill. COs awarded non-combatant duties by their Tribunal and registered "conditionally" on appeal, count only from the date of their Appellate Tribunal for calculating release group numbers.

The "ending of the emergency" is to be declared on Feb. 24 next for the purposes of the Emergency Powers (Defence) Acts. This does not affect the National Service Acts, for which purposes the emergency is unlikely to end for some considerable time.

### Carollers for Scrubs tomorrow

Tomorrow (Sat.) night a carol party will sing, as in past years, outside Wormwood Scrubs prison. It is being arranged by the London Regional Board for COs, who will welcome all carollers outside the prison at 7 p.m.

Here are detailed directions: At East Acton (Central Line) station, turn sharp left for 100 yards onto the open ground, bear right and follow the path outside the prison wall for 150 yards. Bring a torch and (if possible) the News Chronicle "Christmastide Melodies."

Bill Watkins, the Brighton CO now serving a five years' sentence for refusing orders in Italy, is among the prisoners.

### KNOW THE TRUTH!

The Bible solves mankind's problems

Read:

Building a New World  
Why War Will Be Abolished  
The Lesson of the Atom

Also read:

The Bible—the Book for Today  
170 pp, cloth cover, 1s. 3d. by post

Sent post free from Hon. Sec., G.P.S.,  
31 Oakwood Park Road, N.14

Please note our only address

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For all Printing & Stationery

TWELFTH NIGHT  
REVELRIES  
Carton Hall, 6.30 p.m.

Sat., Jan. 5th

Entertainment  
Games Sideshows

Tickets 2s. (including refreshments)

LONDON AREA P.P.U.,  
8 ENDSLEIGH GARDENS, W.C.1

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### A Christmas Comment for "Observer"



"What can I say about the Moscow Dynamos that's really rude?"